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Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

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Editorial

The American people pass severe judgment on the Bush regime

The recent US elections were a repudiation by the American people of the Bush regime and its policies inimical to the interests of Americans and the countries it oppresses. Americans showed through their votes their extreme disdain for the corrupt, deceitful, antipeople and repressive rule of Bush and his gang of ultra-rightist conservatives.

The elections—a contest chiefly between the two leading rival camps of the US big bourgeoisie—saw George W. Bush's Republican Party losing heavily and the Democrats winning majority seats in the Senate, Congress and local governments. They put an end to more than a decade of Republican dominance.

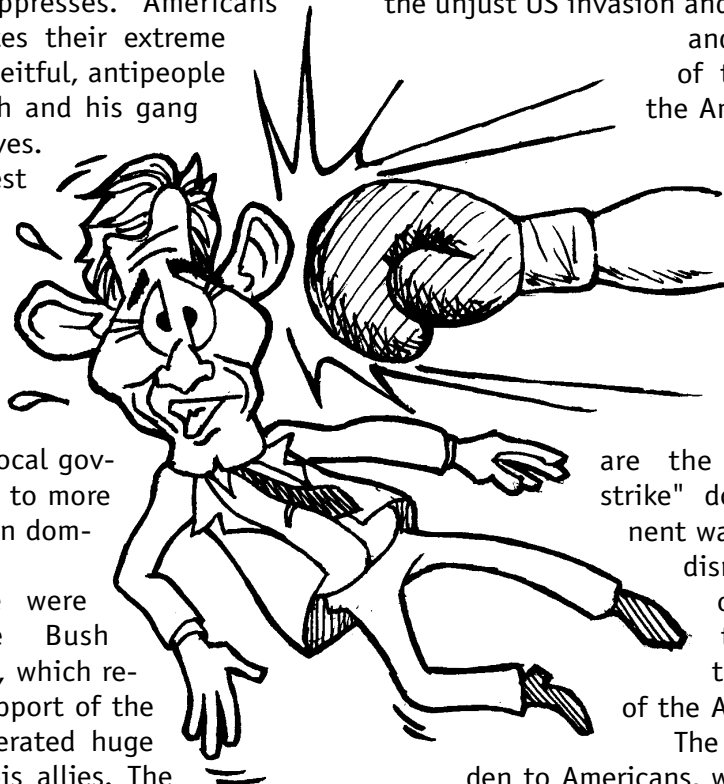
The American people were mainly protesting the Bush regime's unjust war in Iraq, which received the unmitigated support of the Republican Party and generated huge profits for its big bourgeois allies. The huge damage inflicted by the war on US citizens and its attendant violation of the Iraqi people's sovereignty and interests have angered the American people no end.

Exposés that Bush and his leading officials lied in

claiming that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction and entered into an alliance with al Qaeda terrorists and used this as a pretext to justify the unjust US invasion and destruction of Iraq in 2003 and continuing US occupation of the country have incensed the American people.

The Bush regime's deceitfulness was all the more revealed with its claims of success in its policies in Iraq despite glaring proof of US failure to suppress the Iraqi people's intensifying resistance. At the core of all this are the hegemonist "preemptive strike" doctrine and Bush's permanent war on terror, and a unilateral disregard for the sovereignty of other countries, for international law, duly signed treaties and even the welfare of the American people.

The war in Iraq has been a burden to Americans, with the Bush regime squandering colossal funds and resources earmarked for disaster preparedness and the American people's social welfare. Mounting US casualties in Iraq have caused tremendous suffering among the American people. Accounts of massacres of innocent civilians, torture of



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prisoners and other forms of abuse committed by US occupation troops in Iraq have likewise caused revulsion among the American public.

The American people have also become painfully aware of Bush, Vice President Cheney and their closest cronies' greed and large-scale corruption. It is Bush and his cohorts who have been extracting huge profits from Iraqi oil resources and gorging themselves on fat contracts to supply war materiel and mercenaries to Iraq as well as on gargantuan "reconstruction" projects in the wartorn country.

Disclosures of irregularities involving the solicitation of campaign funds and various other scandals involving Bush's party-mates as well as his turning a blind eye to widespread corruption and other anomalies in almost all levels of government marked the pre-election period.

The elections were also a massive repudiation of the Bush regime's distortion of constitutional processes, its enactment of extremely repressive laws and implementation of measures that violate civil rights. The Patriot Act, the torture of suspected terrorists and

other acts that outrightly violate international conventions and humanitarian law and the massive monitoring of private phone conversations and email communications of hundreds of millions of ordinary American citizens are but a few of the prime examples.

Public anger against Bush was further intensified by the plummeting standards of living of the poor majority and growing unemployment in the face of the shameless corruption and greedy profit-taking of monopoly capitalists, especially those closest to the Bush administration.

The American public's repudiation of Bush and the Republican Party does not end with the recent election. This is but an initial victory in the American people's quest to end the Bush administration's oppressive and abusive rule.

The people have placed on the Democrats' shoulders the responsibility to abrogate the ultra-rightist Bush faction's internal and foreign policies and prevent it from exercising its increasingly repressive rule. The American people will be closely watching whether the Democrats will fulfill their promise of

drafting a plan to end the war in Iraq and bring home American troops. They will be closely monitoring the investigation and resolution of the problems brought about by Bush's policies and measures. They will expect the Democrats to act decisively to prevent the Bush gang from exercising power, to the extent of pushing for the president's immediate impeachment and implementing all other means to remove Bush and block a Republican Party victory in the 2008 presidential polls. The American people will surely punish the Democrats severely should they renege on these responsibilities. They will be closely watching any deals the Democrats might make with the Bush regime.

The people will need to follow up their electoral victory with direct and massive action to finally end the Bush administrations' abusive and repressive policies. The formation and expansion of a broad mass movement of the American people will ensure that their recent electoral victory will not go to waste. It is important for the revolutionary and progressive forces to seize the current favorable situation in the US by actively educating, organizing and mobilizing the people to advance a mass movement that would decisively fight for justice, democracy and respect for people's rights.

As it was during the US war in Vietnam, the broad mass movement in the US is expected to be part of a vast and vibrant movement for peace and against US imperialist wars and occupation of other countries. The US mass movement must be linked to, and support, the international mass movement against imperialism and for peace, and to the movements for national sovereignty, democracy, social justice and progress of citizens of other countries.

AB



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Gloria Arroyo fears suffering the same fate as Bush

Gloria Arroyo is fearful of suffering in the 2007 elections the same ignominious defeat that befell Bush and his partymates in the recent US elections.

Many are hopeful that the 2007 election will pave the way for Arroyo's ouster. They say that like Bush, Arroyo faces multiple cases of corruption and anomalies and is accused of electoral fraud. They are both inveterate liars, and are equally responsible for the growing unemployment and hardship among the working class and middle forces and large-scale violations of human rights.

Arroyo fears that the opposition might maintain its majority in the Senate and win a third of congressional seats in the coming election. Should that happen, the impeachment process against her will push through and pave the way for her trial by the Senate for corruption, electoral fraud and human rights violations.

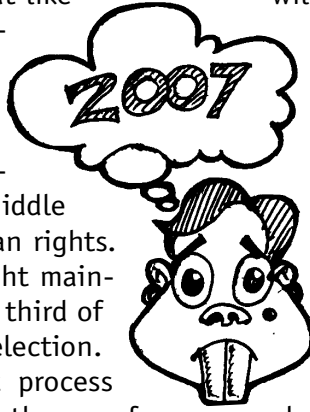
So terrified are Arroyo and her henchmen of this possibility that they have concocted several nefarious maneuvers to change the constitution and block the

2007 elections.

With the failure of the sham people's initiative and the expected failure of plans to transform Congress into a Constituent Assembly that would exclude the majority of senators, it is highly unlikely that Cha-cha will be implemented this year. So as it did in the 2004 election, the Arroyo camp will again endeavor to cheat, bribe and coerce its way through the coming elections to retain control of over two-thirds of Congress and a large majority of local governments, especially in the biggest cities in the national capital.

The Arroyo camp is geared to spend billions of pesos for the 2007 election in an allout effort to avoid the shameful defeat suffered by Bush's Republican Party.

But the Arroyo camp's desperate and barefaced methods to steal the 2007 election can only reap the people's seething and widespread anger. They will only stoke the flames of ever intensifying and expanding people's struggles and spark mutiny among a sizeable section of the state's armed forces.



Rumsfeld, a sacrificial lamb

In a cunning move to save himself from further embarrassment, George W. Bush sacrificed his defense secretary a few hours after the election. This he did in the face of widespread repudiation by the American people of his regime's policy of invading and occupying Iraq. This was the clear message sent by the American people in the recent election.

Bush asked Rumsfeld to resign the morning after the election. The American people, the opposition and even some of Bush's partymates had long been pushing for Rumsfeld's dismissal over huge strategic errors and his incompetent handling of the war in Iraq.

A few days before the US election, the different military branches issued a joint communiqué demanding Rumsfeld's removal. Various publications, including four

military newspapers published the military branches' reaction to Bush's expression of absolute trust and support for Rumsfeld and his intention to keep him at the helm of the Defense Department. They said, "(Rumsfeld's) strategy has failed, and his ability to lead is compromised. And although the blame for our failures in Iraq rests with the secretary, it will be the troops who bear its brunt."

It was Rumsfeld, one of the more rabid ultra-rightist officials in the Bush cabinet who designed the plan for the US invasion and occupation of Iraq and was behind the lies used by Bush to justify the war. He has never accepted responsibility for the US' obvious failure in Iraq. His dismissal is both an indication and an admission by the regime that it *has* failed in Iraq.

The Center for Constitutional Rights in the US and the Republican Lawyers' Association in Germany filed criminal charges against Rumsfeld after he resigned. He and 11 other US government and military officials have been accused of war crimes in relation to the torture and inhumane treatment of thousands of prisoners the US has incarcerated in Abu Ghraib in Iraq and in Guantanamo, Cuba.

Replacing Rumsfeld as defense secretary is Robert Gates, US Central Intelligence Agency director from 1991-93 and a close friend of President George Bush Sr. Gates is also a member of the Iraq Study Group, a special team appointed by the US Congress to review the Bush strategy in Iraq and look for alternative means of ending the war. In 2004, Gates was one of several veteran Republicans who objected to the younger Bush's policies in the Middle East.



Cagayan peasant leader killed

The Arroyo regime's murderous campaign against leaders and members of progressive organizations is unrelenting. The latest atrocities include the gruesome murder of a regional peasant leader in Cagayan Valley and the attempted murder of a BAYAN leader in Ilocos Sur this November. The latest list of human rights violations gathered by AB follows:

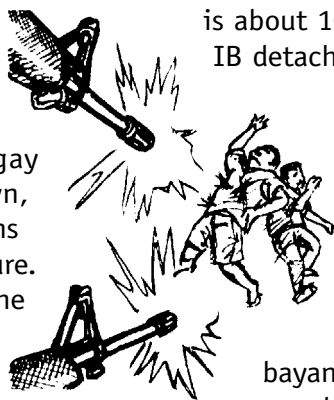
November 16. Death squad elements abducted and killed Bayan Muna member Tomas Mesa, 41, in Barangay Hamorawon, Bulan, Sorsogon. His body was found that same day in Barangay Polot of the same town, bearing cigarette burns and other signs of torture. Mesa was killed on the first death anniversary of Bayan Muna-Sorsogon secretary-general Ricardo "Ding" Uy.

That same day, Anakpawis members Jonel Lumabe, Romulos Robinos and Ryan Supan were abducted in Angeles City, Mabalacat and San Fernando, Pampanga respectively. They are now detained at the 69th IB camp in Mexico, Pampanga, but the military refuses to surface them.

November 12 and 13. Suspected military elements abducted Domingo Marbella from his house in Barangay Lungib, Pilar, Sorsogon last November 13. Bernardito Caporal was likewise abducted from a restaurant in Pilar on November 12. Marbella and Caporal are both peasants accused by the military of being NPA guerrillas. They remain missing.

November 11. Soldiers shot

dead Joey Javier, 42, at 8:50 a.m. in Barangay Centro, Baggao, Cagayan. Javier, a resident of Barangay Caruppian, Baggao was the director of the Sto. Domingo Farmers Cooperative and headed the Caguimongan Dagiti Mannalon iti Cagayan Valley, a regional peasant organization allied with the KMP. He was about to board a tricycle with another Caguimongan member when he was shot by two men armed with .45 pistols. The assailants escaped aboard a motorcycle. The crime scene is about 100 meters from the 17th IB detachment.



November 9. Death squad elements ambushed Rev. Billy Austin, 39, a pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and leader of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-Ilocos Sur. He was hit in both legs. Austin and three companions were on their way to the BAYAN office in Vigan City when they were waylaid by two armed men aboard a motorcycle. Austin is now confined in a hospital.

November 4. A composite force from the 27th and 39th IB abducted and tortured Lourilie Naiz, 22, and Mary Bernadette Solitario, 21, in Tulunan, North Cotabato. Both victims are staff of the Disaster Response Center (DIRECT), an institution dedicated to disaster preparedness. They were accused of being NPA guerrillas and implicated in the Makilala bombing last October 10. They were brought to Camp Sumabat by the 39th IB for interrogation and torture. The victims were blindfolded, stripped naked and fondled by the interrogating soldiers. They were released

the next day after their families filed complaints and sought the assistance of the mayor of Tulunan.

In Nueva Ecija, the Philippine Army issued a shoot-to-kill order against Maximo Ayunga, a councilor of Barangay Culong, Guimba and leader of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon-Nueva Ecija. Ayunga's brother and father are also targets for assassination.

October 30 to the present. Up to 86 families fled their homes in the mountainous villages of Basey, Samar in the first week of November due to intense military operations by the 62nd IB. According to the Leyte Center for Development Inc. (LCDE), a non-governmental organization assisting the evacuees, residents of Sityo Bagti, Barangay Mabini began evacuating after 62nd IB troops led by Col. Arturo Pascua sowed terror in the area. The evacuees said that barangay chairman Romulo Mabang was subjected to intense interrogation by the soldiers who were forcing him to admit that he was a member of the NPA. He was beaten when he denied the accusation. He was first beaten up in the chapel of Bagti last October 30 and again on November 2 and 3. Terrified residents fled their homes and have not returned since due to continuing intense military operations against the NPA. Most evacuees are younger than 17 years old. They now live with friends and relatives.

October until the present. Four local officials in Ilocos Sur were threatened with death last October, with one of them abducted recently. Berto Galicia, barangay chairman of Tablac in Candoc City, Ilocos Sur was seized this November by armed men after he received

Continued on "Cagayan..." on page 5



Libel cases to suppress the media

The National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) issued a petition calling for the decriminalization of libel because of its continued use as an instrument to intimidate journalists. More than 600 journalists signed the petition. Meanwhile, the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) called on media organizations, lawyers' groups and human rights organizations to unite and fight against the Arroyo regime's attacks on press freedom.

The NUJP petition was issued after an attempt by elements of the Manila Police District to arrest *Business Mirror* reporter Mia Gonzales last November in Malacañang for a libel case filed against her by Mike Arroyo. Policemen failed to arrest Gonzales because she was not at the Malacañang Press Corps (MPC) office at that time. She is the MPC vice president for print.

A day earlier, *Malaya* columnist Ellen Tordesillas was also threatened. Gonzales and Tordesillas are among 43 journalists Mike Arroyo has charged with libel. Arroyo has filed 13 libel cases and is demanding a total of ₱70 million in damages.

NUJP secretary-general Rowena Carranza-Paraan said that close to two journalists a week receive threatening messages on their cell-phones. Victims are usually provincial journalists mostly from Mindanao and Southern Tagalog. Threats are usually linked to print or broadcast news articles against local politicians or antipeople military campaigns.

Up to 83 journalists have been killed since 1986. Data from the NUJP show that close to a third of the victims were killed from 2004 to 2006. AB

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mail with a piece of black ribbon enclosed. Pieces of black ribbon had also been sent earlier to Franklin Dungalen, president of the Association of Barangay Councils in Ilocos Sur; Salcedo municipal councilor Rogelio Biteng; and Candon City councilor Robert Tudayan. The threatened local officials are all active Bayan Muna supporters. AB

International censure of Arroyo continues

Various foreign groups censured the Arroyo regime this November for its dirty and bloody record of human rights violations.

Officials of the Episcopal Church of the United States (ECUSA) announced last November 15 that they are preparing to document human rights violations in the Philippines. ECUSA Peace and Justice Ministries director, the Rev. Brian Canon Grieves is due to arrive in the Philippines this December. Earlier, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Scori, the church's presiding bishop called on Arroyo to end the campaign of political killings in the country.

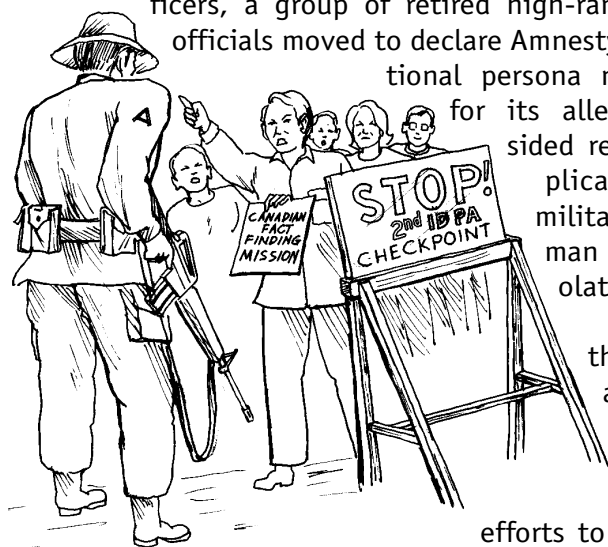
A nine-member fact finding team from Canada composed of lawyers, unionists, community leaders and human rights advocates arrived last November 16 to investigate the growing number of human rights violations, especially violations of union rights. Atty. Luningning Alcuítas, Philippine-Canadian Task Force for Human Rights coordinator said that Canadians are very concerned about reports of widespread violations of human and civil rights in the Philippines. The fact-finding team, which included Attorney Alcuítas, investigated cases of extrajudicial killings and attacks against unions and political groups in Quezon, Tarlac and Abra.

The team's activities in Quezon last November 17-20 were cut short, however, when the 74th IB refused to allow members to speak to victims of military brutality in San Narciso town. San Narciso has been under virtual martial law for the past few months due to operations by the military's Reengineered Special Operations Team.

Meanwhile, the Association of Generals and Flag Officers, a group of retired high-ranking AFP officials moved to declare Amnesty International persona non grata

for its alleged one-sided reports implicating the military in human rights violations.

Despite the regime and its henchmen's frenzied efforts to block in-





vestigations, they are unable to hide the severity and scale of their human rights violations. The latest data from KARAPATAN show that up to 766 activists have been killed since Arroyo assumed power in January 2001.

Unionist Beth Grayers, member of a team of Canadian activists that went to Tarlac, said there has been an increase in the number of extrajudicial killings and harassment against union members over the past two years. One of the more notorious cases is the Hacienda Luisita massacre in November 2004 where seven striking workers were killed and more than 100 wounded after they were shot at by military elements and private security guards. Last September, policemen violently dispersed the picket line of striking workers at the Cavite Export Processing Zone. *(Read additional details in the November 7, 2006 issue of Ang Bayan)*

Reacting to the violent dispersal, seven leading US retailers who are clients of Philippine garment fac-

tories wrote Arroyo to demand protection for workers' rights and respect for human rights. The US Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce likewise issued a statement November 13 stating that the use of killings as a means to intimidate political opponents has no place in a modern democratic state. Last November 15, the Hong Kong Mission for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines released a report stating that not only has the Arroyo government failed to protect the Filipino people, it might even be involved in the campaign of assassination against leftist groups.

Meanwhile, workers' groups in 12 countries staged pickets in front of Philippine embassies and consulates to demand an end to the killing of political activists in the Philippines. The pickets were staged to commemorate the International Day of Action Against Trade Union and Political Killings. The Kilusang Mayo Uno also staged protest actions in Manila and other Philippine cities on the same day. AB

Militant groups assail propagation of Intengan doctrine

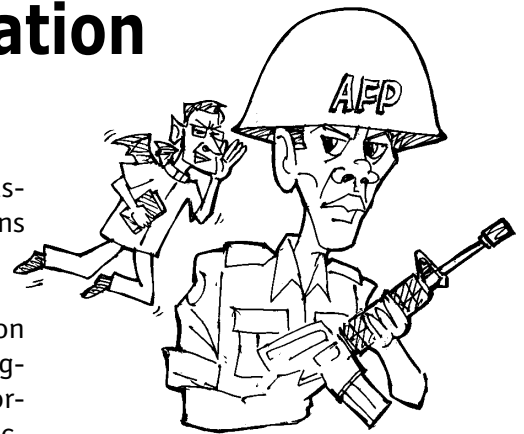
Militant groups and a number of legislators strongly assailed the indoctrination campaign being implemented by Fr. Jose Romeo "Archie" Intengan Jr. of the Partido Sosyalista Demokratiko ng Pilipinas (PDSP) among elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The series of seminars ordered by Gloria Arroyo are meant to malign and brand as enemies of the state personalities and organizations critical of the Arroyo regime. Aside from Intengan, the seminars are conducted by leading personalities of the clerico-fascist PDSP such as National Security Adviser and current PDSP president Norberto Gonzales, Andy Gonzales (Norberto's brother) and Charlie Avila.

The seminars particularly emphasize that both armed members of the NPA and unarmed members of legal organizations suspected to be CPP fronts must be treated as com-

batants. The Intengan doctrine justifies the campaign of abductions and killings of leaders and members of progressive and democratic organizations and their exclusion from legal and parliamentary struggle. Arroyo has also reportedly ordered the dissemination of this doctrine in the mass media and other forums throughout the country.

Among those who have been singled out as "enemies of the state" are Pastor "Boy" Saycon and William Esposo of the Council on Philippine Affairs, economist Alejandro Lichauco and even members of the political opposition critical of the Arroyo regime.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon has called for an investigation of the seminars, saying the military is being used as an instrument to advance the sectarian interests of political parties close to Arroyo. He issued the call after his son, Rep. Rufino



Biazon, revealed in Congress that such seminars were being held in military facilities like the Officers' Club of the Philippine Marines in Fort Bonifacio.

Intengan has admitted that the seminars are part of a program being advanced by the Office of the National Security Adviser under Gonzales. He and his cohorts are currently making the rounds of various forums nationwide to campaign for the arrest and detention of leaders and members of alleged CPP front organizations like BAYAN, PAMALAKAYA, Bayan Muna and KMU. AB



Palo peasants acquitted

A Leyte court has acquitted and ordered the immediate release of eight peasants four days before the first anniversary of the Palo massacre. The peasants had been accused by the 19th IB of being NPA members whom they allegedly encountered on November 21, 2005 in Palo, Leyte. The court dismissed two trumped up charges of illegal possession of firearms filed against them.

The charges were an attempt by 19th IB elements to cover up their massacre of unarmed members of legitimate peasant organizations that day. Nine peasants who were then meeting in preparation for their "balik-uma" campaign were killed by the soldiers in what was to be known as the "Palo Massacre." The campaign was aimed at reclaiming and tilling

lands that had already been awarded to the peasants by the Department of Agrarian Reform. The meeting was attended by members of the San Agustin Farmers-Beneficiaries Cooperative (SA-FABENCO), Alang-alang Small Farmers Association (ASFA) and Bayan Muna. After the massacre, the soldiers nabbed and jailed the survivors and filed trumped up charges against them. One of them, Joselito Tobe, died in prison because of multiple gunshot wounds incurred during the massacre.

To attain justice for their slain comrades, the peasants are filing charges of murder, attempted murder and robbery against the 19th IB. Among those to be charged are 19th IB commander Maj. Louie Dagoy and certain civilians implicated in the massacre. **AB**

Free the Sagada 11

Friends and family of nine youth imprisoned at the Benguet Provincial Jail in La Trinidad rallied in front of the Baguio Justice Hall on November 11 to demand their release. The nine detainees were part of a group of 11 young tourists who had gone to Baguio City on February 14 and were headed for a town fiesta in Sagada, Mountain Province.

The nine youth were illegally arrested, detained and tortured after the police accused them of being NPA members. They were nabbed while hitchhiking along the Baguio-Bontoc Road (Halsema Highway) and accused of being part of a group of Red fighters that raided the 54th IB detachment in Cabiten, Mankayan, Benguet a few days earlier. The

police brandished their firearms at them, beat them up and hogtied them before bringing them to a PNP camp where they were subjected to various forms of torture, including electrocution, to force them to admit to being NPA members. The trumped-up charges were a desperate attempt by the police to cover up their cowardice, obvious errors and humiliation in the face of the NPA's victories in the region.

Despite the baseless accusations, the PNP continues to detain the youth on charges of murder and robbery. After several months of lobbying by human rights advocates, the PNP was forced to free two of them—a 15-year old girl and a 16-year old boy—because they were minors. **AB**

CPP call

Aggressively form more NPA platoons

Conditions continue to be exceedingly favorable for arousing and mobilizing the Filipino people for armed revolution in the face of the reactionary Arroyo regime's relentless fascist terrorism and unbearable oppressiveness that push the broad masses of the people to rise up and fight.

The Communist Party of the Philippines has thus called for the aggressive expansion and strengthening of the NPA and the intensification of guerrilla warfare. The call was issued in a memorandum released by the Executive Committee of the Central Committee (EC-CC) on September 30.

Said the EC-CC: "The more rapid expansion of the people's army and the formation of even more guerrilla platoons are crucial to the formation of company-size guerrilla fronts in more districts, the replacement of lost cadres and personnel, and the buildup of their capacity to intensify guerrilla warfare throughout the archipelago."

Bolstering the NPA's expansion requires systematic planning, the formation of appropriate structures for recruitment and consolidation, and the active involvement of the masses and all local Party branches and revolutionary mass organizations in the task of further strengthening the people's army.

Planned and systematic recruitment

There were years in the NPA's history when certain advanced regions were able to recruit the equivalent of a battalion or about 300 new fight-

ers in a year. Some provinces were able to recruit 100 new fighters in a year. With the current favorable situation, the NPA can match or exceed this past achievement.

The EC-CC has laid down urgent tasks in this regard. There is urgent need to systematically process volunteers wishing to join the NPA. Such processing includes reviewing the recommendations of concerned Party units or mass organizations and ensuring the readiness and qualification of volunteers in terms of age and soundness of mind and body.

Each Party branch in the barrio, militia and revolutionary mass organizations should come up with definite plans of recruitment for NPA platoons. Such plans must include the quantity and quality of target recruits, identifying prospects, ensuring their qualifications, guiding and preparing them. Measures must be taken to ensure that their previous tasks and responsibilities will be taken over by others so that barrio organization and struggles will continue to advance.

Recruitment programs should also be made at the front, provincial and regional levels. This task should be spearheaded by leading Party committees through regular and tactical programming, continuous monitoring, regular scanning and deployment of cadres and problem solving.

Even as recruitment efforts are focused on the peasants in the countryside, recruitment of large numbers of intellectuals, especially from the youth-students and workers must be planned so as to strengthen the corps of cadres in the Party leadership and NPA commands. The call to go to the countryside and join the NPA must reverberate among the revolutionary forces in the cities. Particular attention must be given to organizing the youth and students within and around the guerrilla zones.

We must establish defense corps in the revolutionary mass organizations in the cities and other types of organizations geared towards strengthening the movement's support for armed struggle.

Maintaining NPA forces

As the war progresses, it is but natural and acceptable to lose fighters due to casualties in battle, illness or old age. There are also those who could no longer bear the difficulties and sacrifices, are unable to overcome feudal or bourgeois attitudes or are overwhelmed by personal and family problems. To resolve this, it is a priority task to develop and improve ways of maintaining NPA forces and decisively resolve problems and shortcomings in this area.

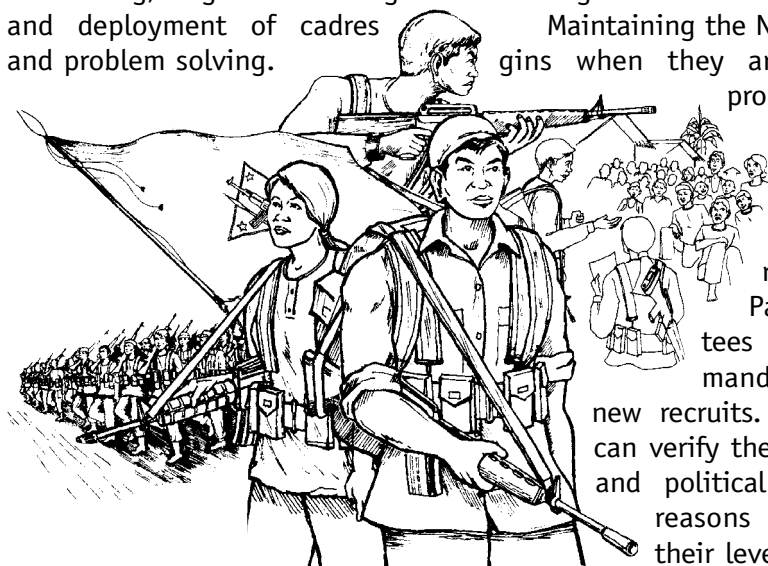
Maintaining the NPA's forces begins when they are still being processed as new recruits. We must implement a system by which responsible Party committees and NPA commands interview new recruits. This way, we can verify their biographical and political record, their reasons for enlisting, their level of readiness,

their abilities and personal circumstances relevant to their tasks and deployment and identify how they could best be guided and developed. Each one must be given a short orientation explaining the NPA's basic character, tasks, policies and regulations; its difference from the reactionary armed forces; the "Three Main Rules of Discipline" and "Eight Points of Attention"; particular tasks of his or her unit; and points on basic military training.

There should be a system of assisting neophytes. Experienced fighters should be assigned to assist new recruits in coping with the unit's day to day life and work, including the implementation of tasks and the correct handling of physical and emotional difficulties and urgent military situations. We must identify and solve the adjustment problems of new recruits. We must combat sectarianism in general, and against recruits from the city in particular. We must create the most favorable situation for their continuous development, and must not rely merely on their own determination and initiative.

It is important to conduct vigorous formal ideological work within the unit as well as daily and timely activities along this line to raise the fighters' understanding and grasp of revolutionary principles and objectives, ensure that each unit is always firm and united in its tasks, that questions are answered and doubts resolved, and that everyone has the fortitude to cope with whatever hardships that may come. Diligently explaining the importance of the unit's various types of work, from the smallest to the biggest; the timely assessment of work; and the prompt resolution of issues through criticism and self-criticism are likewise part of ideological work.

There should be vibrant political discussions to raise the politi-



cal consciousness of NPA units and make them continuously aware of political, economic, military and social issues so as to invigorate their education and propaganda work among the masses and link the unit's various tasks with the country's overall situation and the conduct of the revolutionary movement. It is good to hold regular news reporting sessions when the platoon, group or squad is concentrated and to schedule such activities when the guerrillas are dispersed. Articles and news stories in *Ang Bayan*, Party and NDFP documents and other revolutionary publications may be used as discussion materials. Other progressive newspapers and magazines, revolutionary video and audio productions, among others should also be used.

Each fighter must be honed on various issues. NPA members should be trained and encouraged to lead political education campaigns.

We must ensure a strong leadership core especially in units deployed far from the centers of leadership or those facing difficult and complicated situations. Ensure that the core of leaders is armed with sufficient knowledge and skills to carry out their particular tasks, and capable of rapidly appraising the situation, coping with and solving problems, summing up experiences and drawing lessons from negative and positive experiences. Its role is to efficiently organize the unit, define a clear delegation of tasks, monitor the forces' work implementation and situation and promptly solve problems. It is the leadership core's responsibility to be sensitive to the problems and situation of NPA forces, their health and other needs, and the questions or doubts of each individual so that these can be promptly acted upon.

We must thoroughly implement democracy in the economic, political and military fields within the

The stench of corruption

The Philippines is among the most corrupt countries in the world according to Transparency International (TI), which annually publishes a Corruption Perceptions Index. TI says that on the issue of being corruption-free, the Philippines ranks a dismal 121 among 161 countries. It ranked 117th in 2005.

The release of TI's ratings coincided with the disclosure of various cases of corruption involving Gloria Arroyo and her officials.

Following are just some of these cases:

Embezzling P500 million for electoral funds from a jatropha project. Philippine National Oil Co. president Eduardo Mañalac resigned recently to signify his refusal to become Malacañang's latest version of Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante. Mañalac revealed that he was ordered by Arroyo through Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to release P500 million that would be misrepresented as funds for a national program for planting jatropha trees (locally known as *tangan-tangan*) to be used in biodiesel production. This is aside from the P500 million earlier released by Malacañang from the National Development Corporation allegedly for the same project.

Malacañang is asking that the P1 billion fund be transferred to the Philippine Forest Corporation administered by presidential chief-of-staff Sec. Mike Defensor. Purportedly to save on project funds, the

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unit. We must combat feudal and bourgeois relations between officers and fighters. They are corrosives that swiftly undermine and weaken unity and discipline within a unit. They include commandism, where commanders lay down tasks without sufficient explanation or investigation of the fighters' situation or merely hand out tasks without getting involved in the unit's daily work. This can also be seen in the sectarian treatment of comrades who commit mistakes. This takes such forms as embarrassing them in front of others, fault-finding and sermonizing, discussing criticisms against a comrade with others without first talking to him or her, and other brusque and reckless methods. Good officers do not claim special privileges such as having better cigarettes, food, equipment and others. They treat each fighter equally in alloting

tasks and resources, scheduling furloughs and others. They are humble and do not take the fighters' criticisms as a personal affront or an occasion for vengeance.

Military training and battle-readiness

We must develop each unit's capability and confidence in guerrilla tactics and other aspects of military work. We must conduct military trainings and drills, allow the military structure to function, draft defense plans, program achievable tactical offensives, and regularly implement the three checkups (class origin, performance of duty and fighting will). We must prepare case studies of tactical offensives and defensive battles and learn from them. We must learn warfare though actual warfare. And we must do all this systematically, scientifically and continuously. **AB**

Armed Forces of the Philippines, especially the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) will lead in the planting of jatropha, using its own personnel and the vast lands occupied by military camps and facilities. Malacañang is intentionally juggling the funds and apportioning responsibility for project implementation among various agencies and departments to muddle the money trail and conceal the fact that it is amassing campaign funds for Arroyo's allies in the 2007 election. Secretary Defensor heads Malacañang's fund-raising effort.

P5 billion squandered by the Office of the President. A Senate Finance Committee hearing on the proposed 2007 national budget revealed that up to P5 billion of the funds requested by the Office of the President are squandered on superfluous items, released as cash advances without liquidation or are simply lost.

For instance, the former Bureau of Telecommunications, now the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) is asking for P2 billion. The CICT allegedly spends P1 billion annually for its operations and as salaries for its 5,000 employees running a

telegraph service that uses backward technology compared to the prevalent email and cellphone.

The hearings also revealed that it was the CICT that provided the P800 million used as initial payment to MegaPacific eSolutions Consortium for the defective automated counting machines purchased by the Comelec.

Malacañang is also asking for P650 million in intelligence and confidential funds, P500 million of which will be given to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (POACC) that has had no significant accomplishments. Meanwhile, it was also disclosed that the Office of the President has P77 million in unliquidated expenses.

P138.7 million in unliquidated cash advances by Norberto Gonzales. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales is one of several key Malacañang officials with huge unliquidated cash advances. He has taken out more than P138 million since 2002 when Arroyo appointed him Presidential Adviser on Special Concerns but has not submitted any liquidation report. He simply said the funds were used for operations. The amount in question does not include the money he has spent from Malacañang's much larger confidential and intelligence fund since he was appointed its chief intelligence officer.

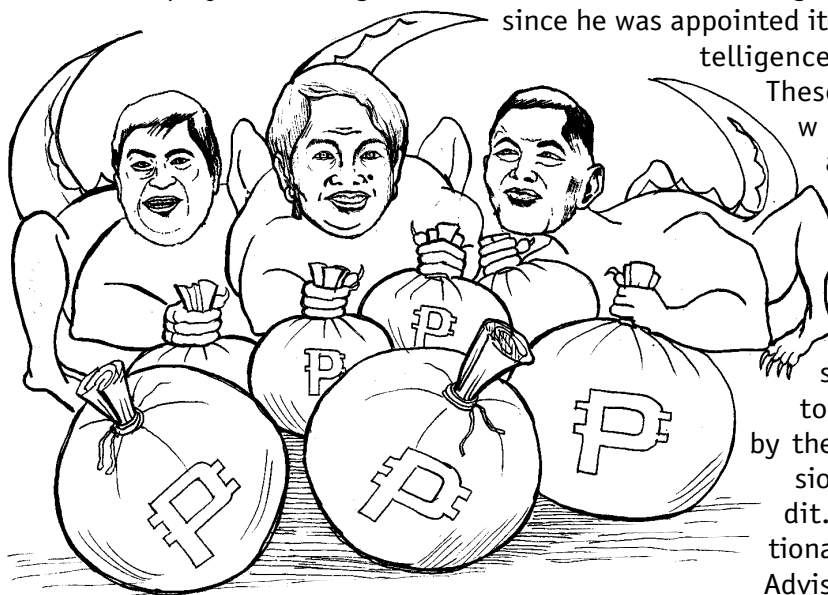
These funds which amount to more than P1.2 billion are not subjected to scrutiny by the Commission on Audit. As National Security Adviser, Gon-

zales holds P150 million in intelligence funds aside from his office's P50 million annual official budget.

P20 million recovered from Marcos ill-gotten wealth missing. Twenty million pesos out of P53 million of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth earlier recovered has reportedly vanished into thin air. The money, seized from Marcos deposits in Switzerland, was held and later transferred by the Department of Land Reform (DLR) to the Office of the President. The money was discovered missing after an investigation by the Commission on Audit (COA). According to the COA, in December 2004, the DLR transferred the money to the President's Social Fund as assistance to agrarian reform communities devastated by typhoons Winnie and Yoyong. Malacañang allegedly transferred the funds to the Department of National Defense-National Disaster Coordinating Council (DND-NDCC). COA's auditors are puzzled why the money had to be transferred to the NDCC which has its own P700 million annual budget.

The missing P20 million is but the latest and forms but a small part of the huge sum missing from the \$624 million (P35 billion) recovered from Marcos deposits in Switzerland. Most of the funds could no longer be accounted for especially since the Arroyo regime used it for various anomalous dealings.

It had earlier been revealed that the DLR took P544 million from the funds, and the Department of Agriculture took P728 purportedly to purchase fertilizers for distribution to farmers. The funds were actually diverted to Arroyo's electoral kitty in 2004. The DLR also released P541 million from the recovered Marcos wealth in its possession for irrigation projects that



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Martyrs of Hacienda Luisita honored

SEVEN workers killed during the "Hacienda Luisita Massacre" two years ago and seven of their ardent supporters who were slain by death squads were remembered and honored last November 16. The members of the United Luisita Workers' Union (ULWU), Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (CATLU), Bayan Muna (BM) and other progressive organizations bestowed the highest honor on Jesus Laza, Jhaive Basilio, Juancho Sanchez, Jessie Valdez, Jun David, Jaime Fastimo and Adriano Caballero who were killed when soldiers and private security guards fired upon their picket line last November 16, 2004; and on CATLU president Ricardo Ramos; ULWU director Tirso Cruz; peasant leader Marcelino Beltran; Bayan Muna-Tarlac secretary-general Ben Concepcion; Tarlac City councilor Abelardo Ladera; Fr. William Tadena of Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI); and Bishop Alberto Ramento of IFI.

"We owe them for the hard-won gains now being enjoyed by the communities in Hacienda Luisita," said ULWU president Rene Galang. The greatest gain has been the scrapping of the stock distribution plan implemented by the management of the

Cojuangco family-owned hacienda; and the gradual transformation of the sugar plantation into land for rice, vegetable and other food products. On the other hand, they continue with their struggle to assert the expansion of the more than 1,000 hectares that could be planted to food crops; defend their right to harvest and benefit from the sugarcane planted, which they won through negotiations while they were on strike; demand a P125 increase in their daily wage; expose and oppose sham organizations like the Peace Foundation and Demokratikong Katipunan ng Magbubukid ng Pilipinas; demand the pullout of all military forces in all barrios under Hacienda Luisita; and push for the ouster of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from the presidency.

The commemoration of the Hacienda Luisita Massacre's second anniversary pushed through despite efforts by the reactionary military to sabotage it. While en route to Barangay Burot, Tarlac City, participants of a solidarity caravan led by BM Rep. Satur Ocampo saw men on board motorcycles strewing metal spikes on the road. The spikes damaged the tires of five of their vehicles.

Mass action prevents planned Gaza bombing

HUNDREDS of Palestinians successfully prevented Israel from bombing two houses in Beit Lahiya, Gaza Strip, Palestine last November 19. The houses belong to Mohammed Baroud and another local leader of Hamas, the ruling political party in Palestine.

Both militant leaders received warnings from Israel that their houses would be bombed. Instead of fleeing, both men asked for support from their neighbors who immediately gathered in the streets, balconies and roofs of the surrounding houses. Local mosques and radio stations also helped in the mobilization.

In the face of a crowd chanting "Death to Israel! Death to America!" Israeli forces had no other choice but to withdraw the planned bombing.

Nonetheless, Israel continued to bomb other parts of the Gaza Strip. In Gaza City, a Palestinian was killed and nine others were wounded when an Israeli plane bombed a car. Four of those wounded were children.

This is but the latest in a long-running Israeli campaign to bomb the homes of suspected Hamas leaders and members. Last November 8, up to 19 Palestinians were killed when Israel bombed several adjacent

homes in the town of Beit Hanoun.

The Palestinian government has condemned the action and called on the UN Security Council to look into the bombing. Last November 17, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling on Israel to withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip and proposed an investigation of the atrocious bombing. Israel, US and Australia voted against the resolution.

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had dubious beneficiaries. The DLR also released more than P3 billion to congressman and governor allies of Arroyo through the CARP Implementing Agencies purportedly for medicine and medical supplies, travel expenses, insurance payments and support for scholars, consultants' fees and other expenses totally unrelated to land reform. The DLR spends up to P254 annually to pay for its consultants.

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